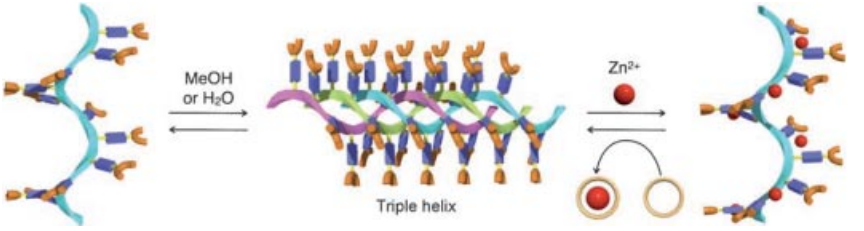
SPOTLIGHTS …

Helical Structures

M. Ikeda, S. Haraguchi, M. Numata, S. Shinkai*

Controlled Stability of the Triple-Stranded Helical Structure of a β-1,3-Glucan with a Chromophoric Aromatic Moiety at a Peripheral Position

Chem. Asian J.
DOI: **10.1002/asia.200700150**



Twisted nature: A semiartificial β-1,3-glucan that bears chromophoric aromatic groups at its peripheral positions adopts a triple-stranded helical configuration in water- and methanol-rich dimethyl sulfoxide. The stability of this structure can be controlled by solvent composition and metal-ion binding.

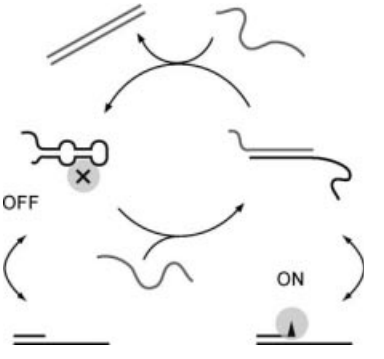
Aptamers

E. Friedrichs, F. C. Simmel*

Controlling DNA Polymerization with a Switchable Aptamer

ChemBioChem
DOI: **10.1002/cbic.200700296**

Controllable biochemical reactions. DNA polymerization by Taq polymerase can be controlled by switching an aptamer for Taq Pol between a binding and a nonbinding form.



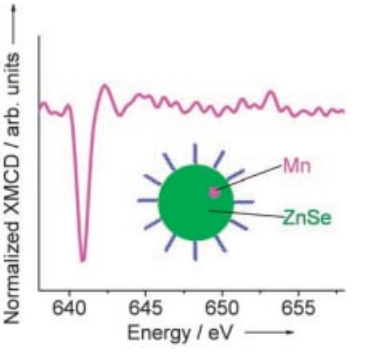
Semiconducting Nanocrystals

A. Hofmann, C. Graf,* C. Boeglin, E. Rühl

Magnetic and Structural Investigation of Mn^{2+}-Doped ZnSe Semiconductor Nanoparticles

ChemPhysChem
DOI: **10.1002/cphc.200700050**

Single manganese ions are located in the bulk interior of Mn-doped ZnSe (ZnSe:Mn) nanoparticles, according to studies by X-ray magnetic circular dichroism (XMCD). This method is a powerful tool for exploring the local electronic environment of transition-metal ions and for the quantitative investigation of their magnetic properties. The picture shows the XMCD spectrum and a schematic of a single particle with stabilizing organic ligands (green).

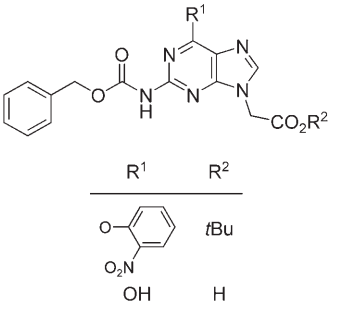


Antiviral Agents

K. F. Adebambo, S. Zanoli, M. G. Thomas, R. Cancio, N. M. Howarth,* G. Maga*

N^2-Benzyloxycarbonylguan-9-yl Acetic Acid Derivatives as HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase Non-Nucleoside Inhibitors with Decreased Loss of Potency Against Common Drug-Resistance Mutations.

ChemMedChem
DOI: **10.1002/cmdc.200700045**



Beating the RT mutants: A novel class of N^2-Cbz-guan-9-yl acetic acid derivatives is endowed with anti-HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT) activity in the low micromolar range. These compounds have improved efficacy towards drug-resistant RT mutants relative to nevirapine and efavirenz. Their unique scaffold and interesting resistance profiles warrant further development.

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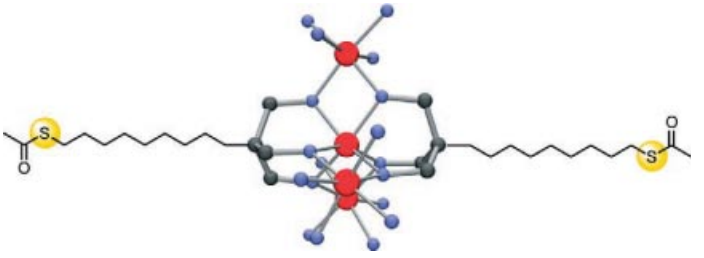


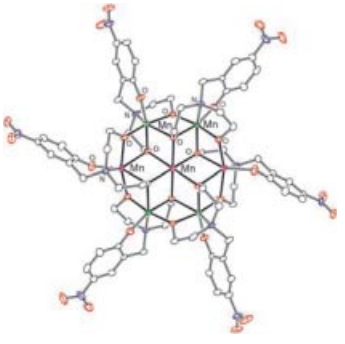
Single-molecule magnets of the Fe_4 family have been functionalized with terminal "alligator clips" by exploiting the site-specific coordinating ability of 2-(hydroxymethyl)propane-1,3-diol derivatives. The complexes have an $S = 5$ ground state and energy barriers exceeding 15 K.

Single-Molecule Magnets

A.-L. Barra, F. Bianchi, A. Caneschi, A. Cornia,* D. Gatteschi, L. Gorini, L. Gregoli, M. Maffini, F. Parenti, R. Sessoli,* L. Sorace, A. M. Talarico

New Single-Molecule Magnets by Site-Specific Substitution: Incorporation of "Alligator Clips" into Fe_4 Complexes

Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.
DOI: **10.1002/ejic.200700382**



Wheel of magnets: A heptanuclear $Mn^{II,III}$ wheel-shaped single molecule magnet (see figure) has an $S = 19/2$ spin ground state with an easy-axis-type magnetic anisotropy of $D = -0.283$ K. Magnetization experiments using static and pulse field magnets showed different magnetic hysteresis loops due to quantum tunneling of the magnetization.

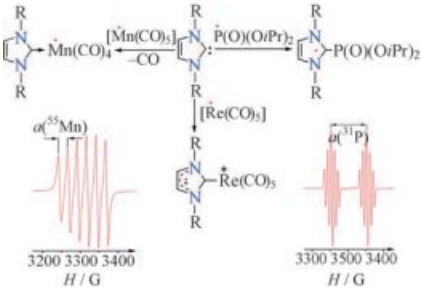
Single-Molecule Magnets

S. Koizumi, M. Nihei, T. Shiga, M. Nakano, H. Nojiri, R. Bircher, O. Waldmann, S. T. Ochsenbein, H. U. Güdel, F. Fernandez-Alonso, H. Oshio*

A Wheel-Shaped Single-Molecule Magnet of $[Mn^{II}_3Mn^{III}_4]$: Quantum Tunneling of Magnetization under Static and Pulse Magnetic Fields

Chem. Eur. J.
DOI: **10.1002/chem.200700714**

At last, two general types of radical adducts have been obtained by the addition of radicals to a stable N-heterocyclic carbene. Addition products were obtained with $(iPrO)_2(O)P^{\bullet}$ and $[(CO)_5Re^{\bullet}]$, while with $[(CO)_5Mn^{\bullet}]$ and $[(CO)_3CpMo^{\bullet}]$ ($Cp = \eta^5$-cyclopentadienyl) substitution of one carbonyl ligand and coordination to the metal center occurred to give novel metal-centered radicals (see scheme).



Carbenes

B. Tumanskii,* D. Sheberla, G. Molev, Y. Apeloig*

Dual Character of Arduengo Carbene–Radical Adducts: Addition versus Coordination Product

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.
DOI: **10.1002/anie.200702297**

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